

## How Service-Learning is Unique

<i>School-based service-learning is ...</i>	<i>School-based service-learning is not ...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linked to academic content and standards</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An "add-on" to existing curriculum</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A method of teach that combines community service with curriculum-based learning</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A volunteer or community service program with no ties to academics</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About students helping to determine and meet real, defined community needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logging a certain number of service hours in order to graduate</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reciprocal in nature, benefiting both the community and the student</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-sided – benefiting either the students or the community</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An effective way to encourage and foster active citizenship as part of public education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compensatory service assigned as a form of punishment by the courts or school administrators</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An approach to teaching and learning that can be used in any curriculum area as long as it is appropriate to learning goals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only for use in social studies classes, civics, or American government</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For all ages, even the youngest children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only for high school and college students</li> </ul>

## Benefits

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### Of Service Learning

#### For teachers...

**Relevance** – Service-learning ties the principles and processes of democracy to practical community problems.

**Motivation** – Challenging students to make a difference in their school or community through service projects will motivate students and improve academic achievement.

**Student-Centered Learning** – With service-learning projects, the responsibility for learning is centered with the students. The teacher guides the process and provides resources.

**Community Resources** – Service-learning puts students in touch with community advisors and resources that expand the learning environment beyond the teachers, the textbook, and the classroom.

**Rewards of Service** – The students, the teacher, and the whole school will experience the rewards of serving others and solving school and community problems.

#### For Students...

**Academic Enrichment** – Service-learning provides the intellectual and emotional challenge to learn the principles and processes of our democratic system. The practical application of social science to real community problems gives a much-needed stimulus to enhance the academic achievement of students, especially in U.S. history and government courses.

**Civic Responsibility** – Students learn by doing. Service-learning allows them to practice in the community the civic values and concepts they learn in the classroom. With guided practice, in school and community problem solving, they learn they can make a difference.

**Building Character** – A great way for students to learn about core values, such as fairness, respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, and especially caring, is through service-learning. Service-learning also bolsters confidence and stimulates compassion.

*“Education is the key to honoring America’s promise. Our schools are indeed the crucible of our democracy. By solving real-life problems, students engaged in service-learning are challenged to exercise leadership and responsibility. Citizenship is something we learn, not something we inherit.”*

- Improving Our Schools and the Challenge of Citizenship